

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 2 and 4 to 9, and add Claims 15 and 16, as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A customisable data filter system adapted to reduce a dimension of a searchable data base and to perform one or more of a database search and a data item selection, in relation to a correspondingly reduced search space, said system comprising:

a Portable Customisable data Filter and Interface (PCFI) comprising a programmable smartcard adapted to store at least a data filter parameter, and further adapted to provide a user interface by means of spatially distributed user selectable icons made visible on a surface of the smartcard;

a reader means adapted to interface with said PCFI, and further adapted to discriminate an icon on an inserted said smartcard selected by a user; and

database processing means adapted to interface with the reader means, said database processing means being (a) responsive to said data filter parameter and detected icon selection; ~~wherein said~~ and (b) adapted to establish the correspondingly reduced search space ~~is defined by~~ dependent upon said filter parameter, and wherein said one or more of the database search and the data item selection is performed using the selectable icons.

2. (Currently Amended) A customised data filter system according to claim 1, wherein said data filter parameter comprises a base filter parameter, and wherein the PCFI is adapted to store another filter parameter which is combinable ~~can be combined~~

with said base filter parameter to thereby enable further reduction of the dimension of the searchable data base.

3. (Original) A customisable data filter system according to claim 1, wherein said data filter parameter is a reference to said data filter parameter.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of customising a Portable Customisable data Filter and Interface (PCFI)[,] adapted to reduce a database search space, using a Portable Customisable User Interface (PCUI), wherein the PCFI and the PCUI respectively comprise a programmable smartcard providing a user interface including spatially distributed user selectable icons made visible on a surface of the smartcard, wherein the user selectable icons are operable using a smartcard reader to which the smartcard is connected; said method comprising steps of:

interfacing a customising system to ~~both said the~~ the PCFI and the PCUI using respective said smartcard readers; a Portable Customisable User Interface (PCUI); and  
programming ~~said the~~ the PCFI by means of user instructions being input by means of the PCUI to said customising system to the customising system using the user interface of the PCUI.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of customising a Portable Customisable data Filter and Interface (PCFI) comprising a programmable smartcard providing a user interface including spatially distributed user selectable icons made visible on a surface of the smartcard, wherein the user selectable icons are operable using a

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smartcard reader to which the smartcard is connected, the PCFI being adapted to reduce a database search space; the method comprising the steps of:

interfacing a customising system to ~~said~~ the PCFI using said smartcard reader; and

programming ~~said~~ the PCFI by means of user instructions being input to ~~said the~~ customising system ~~by means of predetermined control elements~~ using predetermined said icons on the PCFI.

6. (Currently Amended) A Portable Customisable data Filter and Interface (PCFI) adapted to reduce a database search space, said PCFI comprising:

a programmable smartcard providing a user interface ~~having spatially distributed user selectable icons~~ including at least one icon made visible on a surface of the smartcard, wherein ~~a selected the icon is capable of discrimination by~~ is operable using a smartcard reader to which the PCFI smartcard is ~~connectable~~ connected;

~~a first and second data filter parameters~~ parameter; and

a first rule adapted to define a ~~third~~ second data filter parameter dependent upon ~~said the first and second data filter parameters~~ parameter.

7. (Currently Amended) A PCFI according to claim 6, wherein ~~said first and second data filter parameters are first and second references to said first and second data filter parameters, and further wherein said third data filter parameter is a reference to said third data filter parameter~~ the first data filter parameter is a reference to the first data filter parameter.

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8. (Currently Amended) A PCFI according to claim 6, wherein said first rule comprises at least one of:

a boolean relationship applicable to said ~~first and second data filter~~ parameters first data filter parameter; and

a learning function operable upon ~~one or more of said first and second data~~ filter parameters the first data filter parameter in conjunction with a baseline parameter.

9. (Currently Amended) A PCFI according to claim 8, wherein ~~said the first and second data filter parameter~~ parameters ~~are first and second references to said first and second data filter parameters~~ comprises first and second data filter parameters.

10. (Original) A method of reducing a dimension of a searchable data base, and performing at least one of a database search and a data item selection, in relation to a correspondingly reduced search space, said method comprising steps of:

configuring a Portable Customisable data Filter and Interface (PCFI) comprising a programmable smartcard adapted to store at least a data filter parameter, and further adapted to provide a user interface by means of spatially distributed user selectable icons made visible on a surface of the smartcard;

interconnecting the PCFI to a searchable database;

selecting one or more of said user selectable icons;

defining the reduced search space dependent upon said filter parameter; and

performing at least one of a database search and a data item selection, in relation to said reduced search space, dependent upon said selection.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, wherein said defining step comprises sub-steps of:

reading the filter parameter, being a base filter parameter, from the PCFI;

and

applying the base filter parameter to the searchable database thereby to define the reduced search space; and wherein the step of performing one or more of a database search and a data item selection is followed, if further search space reduction is desired, by further steps of:

reading another filter parameter from the PCFI;

combining said other filter parameter with said base filter parameter; and

applying the combined filter parameters to the reduced search space thereby to define a further reduced search space.

12. (Original) A method of reducing a dimension of a searchable database according to claim 10, whereby said data filter parameter is a reference to said data filter parameter.

13. (Original) A computer readable medium for storing a program for apparatus which reduces a dimension of a searchable data base and performs one or more of a database search and a data item selection, in relation to a correspondingly reduced search space, said program comprising:

code for a configuring step for configuring a Portable Customisable data Filter and Interface (PCFI) comprising a programmable smartcard adapted to store at least a

data filter parameter, and further adapted to provide a user interface by means of spatially distributed user selectable icons made visible on a surface of the smartcard;

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code for an interconnecting step for interconnecting the PCFI to a searchable database;

code for a selection step responsive to selection of one or more of said user selectable icons;

code for a defining step for defining the reduced search space dependent upon said filter parameter; and

code for a database searching step and code for a data item selection step for performing at least one of a database search and a data item selection, in relation to said reduced search space, dependent upon said selection.

14. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 13, wherein said data filter parameter is a reference to said data filter parameter.

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15. (New) A Portable Customisable data Filter and Interface (PCFI) adapted to reduce a database search space, the PCFI comprising:

a programmable smartcard that is operable using a smartcard reader to which the smartcard is connected; and

a base data filter parameter stored in a memory of the smartcard

wherein when the PCFI is coupled to a database using the reader the search space of the database is reduced to a reduced search space according to the base data filter parameter.

16. (New) A PCFI according to claim 15, further comprising:

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a user interface including an icon made visible on a surface of the smartcard, wherein the icon is operable using the smartcard reader; and

a second data filter parameter associated with the icon and stored in the memory,

wherein selection of the icon associated with the second data filter parameter causes the reduced search space established by the base data filter parameter to be further reduced in accordance with to the second data filter parameter.

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